Since M/s GPCL is not the executing the project, the requisite 'in-principle' clearance could not be accorded and the proposal was returned by CEA in October, 1996.

Research Work in New Fields

2804. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any facilities are being provided to scientists and researchers in the field of technology to update their research works;

(b) if so, the new fields wherein research works have been made during the last five years; and the achievements therein so far;

(c) whether any research has been made about the use of CNG in the automotive and other industries; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the new areas where research work has been carried out in the last five years are :—

Membranes, New materials, Robotics, Organic polymers, Computer aided design, Protein folding and Protein Engineering, Laser processing materials, Titanium and Magnesium production materials, New drug design etc.

Some of the achievements are :—

High efficiency fluroscence lamps have been developed by using some phosphor material; Membrane technology developed for concentration of milk, viral and toxoid based vaccines, providing safe drinking water etc.; Development of software modules for ship design and production; Development of indigenous design for cross flow turbine for micro hydel applications; BOD Sensors; Amorphous Silicon Solar Cells; Technology developed for blood oxygenator.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The indigenously developed system is under trial.

UPSEB

2805. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the dues from the various Government departments in Uttar Pradesh and Kanpur city in particular, to State Electricity Board; and

(b) the steps are being proposed for the early recovery of dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The organisation wise/area-wise dues of the SEBs including the UPSEB are not maintained by the Central Government. However, from the audited accounts of UPSEB for 1995-96, it is noted that the total receivables against supply of power by the Board was Rs. 3322.45 crores. The action for recovery of these outstanding rests with the UPSEB/State Government.

Crude Oil

2806. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of crude and refined products in Idnia are low in comparison to international prices;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any intention to bring them at par with international prices;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(d) whether prices of both domestic crude oil and refined products are likely to be fixed by the Oil Coordination Committee and also to fix consumer prices of administered products on quarterly basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and its effect on consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Presently, the domestic prices of crude oil and petroleum products are administered by the Government and are fixed taking into consideration production cost, cost of imported products and crude oil and socio economic factors. The private sector/joint venture crude oil producers are being paid international prices under the production sharing contracts. The prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market are highly volatile and are subject to wide fluctuations from time to time.

Bottling Plants

2807. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sanad, Bhavnagar and Palanpur Bottling Plants have been commissioned and have started functioning;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any plan for good marketing network in Gujarat keeping in view the increased availability of LPG, after commissioning of above plants; and

(c) if not, the reasons for non-commissioning of the plants and non-formulation of marketing plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The status of the referred bottling plants is as under:

Location	Capacity (TMTPA)	Expected date of completion
Sanad	66	Mechanically completed
Bhavnagar	44	July, 1997.
Palanpur	34	This plant has been allocated in the IX Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir. There are plans to set up 27 new LPG distributorships under 1994-96 marketing plan in the State of Gujarat. The advertisements for these locations have already been released.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Sale of Land

2808. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been cases of illegally selling of Gram Sabha land in Uttar Pradesh for the last couple of years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take in the matter to get back the Gram Sabha land to look the offending officials and the people responsible for selling the land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Panchayati Raj being a State subject, the details of day to day conduct of Panchayati Raj matters including sale of land are not maintained by this Ministry. However, no such cases of illegally selling of Gram Sabha land in Uttar Pradesh has been reported to this Ministry so far.

Oil Exploration

2809. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed to offer tax-holidays to private companies investing in high risk exploration blocks;

(b) if so, whether the Government have imposed a ban which would restrict the total tax burden 10 to 20% on high risk oil exploration;

(c) if so, whether this is likely to be a part of the new exploration licensing policy; and

(d) if so, the time by which the policy is likely to be announced and the high risk block levels covered under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy announced recently, royalty will be charged at half the prevailing rate for offshore aeas for deep water areas beyond 400 metre bathymetry for the first 7 years after commencement of commercial production. The policy also envisages a tax holiday for seven years after commencement of commercial production for blocks in North-East Region.

(b) and (c) There is no such specific proposal under consideration of Government.

[Translation]

Link Roads

2810. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to connect every village by link roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the State-wise number of villages which have been connected by link roads so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The Government have written to all States and Union Territories to furnish information on the present status of village connectivity, physical and financial requirements for connecting the remaining unconnected villages, etc. with a view to accelerate the pace of construction of rural link roads for connecting villages.

(d) Information on State-wise number of villages with population of 1000 or more which have been connected by link roads by 31st March, 1996 is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise connectivity of Villages with population 1000 and above

(As on 31-3-1996)

States/U.Ts.	Total No. of villages	Total No. of villages connected*
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	13467	11647
2. Arunachal Pradesh	81	71
3. Assam	3719	3719